

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SSM-05 /082 W
-----034668 231837Z /14

O 231655Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8299

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 11415

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR PGM/PP

USDEL NR 6

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)

SUBJECT: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS APRIL 23

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON
AFTER THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT HURGHADA ON
APRIL 23, 1978.

BEGIN TEXT

ATHERTON: LET ME SAY FIRST THAT I'VE HAD REALLY A VERY,
VERY GOOD TALK WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. AND I'M GRATEFUL
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INDEED TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ACCORDING ME SO MUCH TIME.
THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY A PERSONAL MESSAGE
FROM HIM TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH HE WILL BE SENDING TO
ME BEFORE I LEAVE CAIRO. HE HAS ALSO OFFERED TO HAVE
THE FOREIGN MINISTER COME ANY TIME WE THINK IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE THIS CONSULTATIVE PRO-
CESS. WE HAD A VERY SEARCHING DISCUSSION OF ALL OF THE

ISSUES WITH REGARD TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND WITH REGARD TO WAYS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THAT PROCESS. WE CONSIDER THIS, AS I SAID BEFORE, PART OF THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES. WE WILL ALSO BE HAVING SUCH CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN LATER THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON DESIGNED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHAT THE NEXT MOVES IN THE PEACE PROCESS SHOULD BE. I THINK WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING, IN A MUCH MORE DETAILED WAY, TODAY OF THE POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I AM CONFIDENT THAT WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO BEGIN AGAIN TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. THANK YOU.

QUESTION: DID YOU CARRY A CERTAIN AMERICAN DRAFT TO THE EGYPTIANS ON WHICH BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING?

ATHERTON: NO, WE HAVE NOT CONVEYED ANY AMERICAN PROPOSALS AT THIS POINT. WE HAVE DISCUSSED A LOT OF IDEAS--EXCHANGED VIEWS ON A LOT OF IDEAS--AS WE ALWAYS DO WHEN WE HAVE THESE MEETINGS. BUT AS I SAID BEFORE, WE DO NOT EXCLUDE PUTTING FORWARD AMERICAN IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY BOTH SIDES AT A TIME WHEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES WE FEEL THIS WILL MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION.

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QUESTION: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT MINISTER KAMEL TO COME TO THE U.S.?

ATHERTON: THIS IS SIMPLY AN OFFER IN PRINCIPLE. IF WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS AFTER I RETURN, THE MINISTER WOULD BE HAPPY TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR THAT PURPOSE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS WILL BE NECESSARY OR NOT, AND WE HAVE NO DEFINITE DECISION IN THAT REGARD.

QUESTION: DID PRESIDENT SADAT INDICATE THAT HE IS GETTING IMPATIENT WITH HOW LONG THIS IS DRAGGING ON?

ATHERTON: I DID NOT GET THAT IMPRESSION FROM THIS CONVERSATION. I OBVIOUSLY WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION FOR ITSELF, BUT I DID NOT GET THAT IMPRESSION.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

ATHERTON: NO, I THINK WE EXCHANGED A NUMBER OF IDEAS BUT WE ARE NOT AT

A STAGE WHERE WE ARE PUTTING FORWARD,
OR ANYONE IS PUTTING FORWARD, FORMAL PROPOSALS. THIS
IS NOT A TRIP FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF THE KIND THAT I WAS
ON THE LAST TIME, THERE I WAS CONVEYING PROPOSALS FROM
ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER. WE ARE SIMPLY CLARIFYING AND
EXAMINING FURTHER THE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE
ARISEN IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH THE EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENT AS WE WILL BE DOING WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERN-
MENT NEXT WEEK.

QUESTION: HAS PRESIDENT SADAT ASKED FOR AN AMERICAN
PROPOSAL OR DRAFT DOCUMENT TO FURTHER THE PEACE PROCESS?

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INRE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SSM-05 /082 W
-----049739 251548Z /43

O 231655Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8300
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR PGM/PP
VDSDEL NR 6

ATHERTON: YOU KNOW, I THINK I PROBABLY BETTER NOT GET
INTO ANY MORE OF THE SPECIFICS OF THIS KIND ON THE
DISCUSSIONS. THESE ARE STILL PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

DISCUSSIONS, AND I REALLY DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT SAID OR DIDN'T SAY, OR WHAT WE SAID OR DIDN'T SAY IN SUCH SPECIFIC WAYS.

QUESTION: PRESIDENT SADAT HAS GIVEN SOME OF US THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER PROGRESS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THERE IS SOME DEFINITE CHANGE IN ISRAELI POLICY. IS THAT ALSO YOUR IMPRESSION?

ATHERTON: YES, I THINK THAT IS CORRECT. HE FEELS THERE ARE CERTAIN POSITIONS WHICH SHOULD BE MODIFIED--AS WE OURSELVES HAVE MADE CLEAR IN OUR OWN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THERE ARE ISSUES ON WHICH WE AND ISRAEL HAVE DIFFERENCES AND WE FEEL THAT THESE HAVE TO BE TALKED OUT AND WAYS HAVE TO BE FOUND AROUND THEM. I'LL TAKE JUST ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: DO YOU HOPE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE AGREEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OR AFTER?

ATHERTON: IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS . . .

QUESTION: YOU JUST SAID YOU WANT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. WHAT DO YOU MEAN NEGOTIATIONS?

ATHERTON: WELL, IN A WAY, OF COURSE, I DON'T FEEL THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE EVER ENDED. THEY HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON INDIRECTLY WITH OUR HELP IN RECENT WEEKS. AND WHAT I'M SPEAKING ABOUT IS REACHING A POINT WHERE THE DIRECT NEGOTIATING PROCESS CAN BE RESUMED. I HAVE NO INDICATION AT THIS POINT OF WHEN THAT MIGHT BE. I THINK THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD HELP ADVANCE THAT PROCESS.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL YOU BE LEAVING?

ATHERTON: I'LL BE LEAVING ON TUESDAY.

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QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

ATHERTON: NO. BACK TO WASHINGTON. END TEXT. ELTS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS APRIL 23 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON AFTER THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT HURGHADA
TAGS: OVIP, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fee2c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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